



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-4435)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D., Commissioner Anne S. Hill and Commissioner Donald S. Andrews

Excused: Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio and Commissioner Susan Burton

Call to Order. (13-4373)

**Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a
moment of silence.**

Commissioner Hill joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the September 11, 2013 Minutes. (13-4375)

On motion of Commissioner Donald Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Anne Hill and unanimously carried, the minutes of September 11, 2013 were approved with the following addition:

- **On Page 4, paragraph 2 should read...the length of stay in the group homes has in many instances nothing to do with the environment from which the youth come...**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Department Representatives Reports for September 18, 2013.

- Department of Auditor-Controller
 - Monthly Report
- Department of Mental Health
 - Monthly Report
 - Discussion regarding the Department of Mental Health's role in caring for the inmates.
- Internal Services Department
 - Monthly Report
 - Follow-up report regarding the inspection and findings of the Inglewood Juvenile Courthouse (Continued from 7/17/13).
- Sheriff's Department
 - Monthly Report
- Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
 - Monthly Report
- Probation Department
 - Monthly Report (13-4376)

DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR CONTROLLER'S (AC)

Ms. Michele Day, A-C, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed the copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report for the month of July and August 2013. The August 2013 activity report is as follows:

23 Total phone calls:

- 18 Youth
- 5 Adults

26 Total calls related to the following:

Collaboration Contacts/Referrals/Information

- 11 - Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
- 4 - Child Protection Hotline

- 6 - Group Home
- 1 - Community Care Licensing
- 2 - Probation Ombudsman
- 2 - General Information

21 Total calls from youth related to the following:

- 12 - Personal Rights
- 1 - Allowance
- 2 - Clothing/Personal Property
- 1 - Contact
- 1 - Food
- 3 - Living Conditions
- 2 - Health/Med, Dental
- 2 - Respect
- 3 - Personal
- 1 - Fear, Threats, Intimidation
- 1 - Crime/Gang-related
- 1 - Sexual Interaction
- 6 - Other
- 6 - CSW Related Issues

5 Site Visits/Outreach

- Dimondale Adolescent Care Facility
- Macro Homes
- Turmont Home for Boys
- Murrell's Farm Boys Home (2 sites)

Issues expressed during visits

- 1 - Discord between two residents
- 1 - School and community

Ms. Day also distributed the Auditor-Controller's Children's Group Home Ombudsman Semi-Annual Report for the period of January 1 through June 30, 2013. She further reported that the Ombudsman posters that are displayed at group homes are being revised. She will provide the Commission to copies of the revised posters.

INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (ISD)

William Kiriama, ISD, reported that Brian Lear and a liaison from the

Probation Department (PD) conducted a walkthrough of the Inglewood Juvenile Courthouse to follow up on the inspection findings reported by Commissioner Burton at the July 17, 2013 meeting. He stated that the walkthrough resulted in determining that the lighting, ceiling tiles and walls were fine. However, he further stated that the courthouse exterior needs painting and landscaping and the State of California is responsible for those repairs and upkeep.

MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT (MHD)

Mr. Stephen Shea, M.D., Director of Twin Towers Jail Mental Health Services MHD, reported that Los Angeles County has one of the largest jail systems in the United States (US) with approximately 19,000 inmates and every one of them are screened for mental illness. Dr. Shea stated that as the Director and Chief Psychiatrist of 300 employees representing all disciplines, his unit, located in the Sheriff's Department (SD), is responsible for approximately 3,000 clients that are housed in various mental health and special population units within the local jails.

In response to Commissioner Grills' question, Dr. Shea reported that MHD services that are provided to its clients may be the best in the Country and the US Department of Justice (DOJ), who has been MHD mentors for the past 15 years, concurs. Also, with the support of the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and the SD, Vanir Construction Management, Inc. (consultant) was hired to explore options to contract services which will include the jail's mental health population. He further stated that the DOJ have opened a new investigation on the use of force and they will examine suicide prevention protocols in the near future.

Commissioner Grills suggested, inviting Dr. Shea and an organization like the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to a future meeting to address her observations. During a recent jail inspection, she witnessed a mentally ill female inmate that had been constrained for a prolonged period of time and left to lay on her waste for over two days and was eventually transported to receive medical attention.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Commander Samuel Dacus, Sheriff Department, introduced himself to the Commission as the SBC representative.

Commander Ralph Ornelas, Sheriff Department, presented a follow up

report on Commissioner Burton's inspection findings during her visit to the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) on July 18, 2013:

- The overcrowded 3 tier beddings modules will be maintained because of a lack of other housing availability for the inmates housing.
- The report of mold in the ceiling has been corrected.
- A new process to search the inmates has been implemented.
- Title 15 posters are displayed on walls, as well as, a follow-up to the inmates to ensure that they have received a title 15 pamphlet.

A response regarding the lack of response to inmate request for medical and dental appointments will be reported at the next business meeting.

Commander Ornelas also answered questions posed by the Commission.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS)

Patricia Bolanos-Gonzalez, Children Services Administrator, Out of Home Care Management Division, DCFS, reported the following during the period of August 21, 2013 to September 16, 2013:

- Physical Abuse – 2
- General Neglect – 3
- At Risk – 1
- Sexual Abuse – 2
- Closed Referrals – 20
 - General Neglect - 6
 - 5 Unfounded
 - 1 Evaluated Out
 - 6 Physical Abuse
 - 5 Unfounded
 - 1 Evaluated Out
 - 3 Sexual Abuse
 - 2 Unfounded
 - 1 Evaluated
 - 1 At Risk
 - Unfounded

○ **4 Emotional Abuse**

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Ms. Lisa Campbell-Motton, Director of Placement Permanency & Quality Assurance (PD), reported on the status of AWOLs for the month of August 2013 as follows:

- **109 AWOLS**
 - **94 Youth Involved**
 - **11 were repeat offenders**
 - **38 Remain AWOL**
 - **29 Returned to Group Home**
 - **18 Juvenile Hall**
 - **1 Home on Probation**
 - **1 Camp Community Placement**
 - **1 Camp Detention Program**

Ms. Campbell-Motton also reported that there were no group homes on hold for the month of August 2013.

The following referrals were reported:

- **5 Child Abuse Referrals**
 - **2 Unfounded**
 - **2 Inconclusive**
 - **1 Substantiated**
- **9 Group Home Investigations**
 - **2 Unfounded**
 - **4 Substantiated**
 - **3 Pending**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

- 3. Chairperson's Report on various items for September 18, 2013. (13-4378)**

Chairperson Montaña shared the following Newspaper Articles:

Los Angeles Times:

- **County To Send Inmates To Fire Camps (September 18, 2013)**
- **A Chronic Shortage of Love (September 14, 2013)**

Daily Breeze:

- **New Trouble Old Questions for L.A. Sheriff (September 13, 2013)**
- **County is Pushing for More Oversight (September 18, 2013)**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Treasurer's Report for September 18, 2013. (13-4379)

There was no report presented.

5. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports for September 18, 2013. (13-4380)

There was no report presented.

6. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on September 18, 2013. (13-4381)

In Compliance:

- **Commissioner Bigby visited Hathaways-Sycamores Children and Family Services, Page 19, #5, on September 13, 2013.**
- **Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Rosemary Children's Services, Page 35, #2, on September 17, 2013.**

Not Home:

- **Commissioner Andrews visited Optimist Boys Home and Ranch, Page 29, #5, on September 12, 2013.**

7. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from September 12, 2013 to September 17, 2013. (13-4382)

During the reporting period, the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory conditions:

- **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited the Marina Del Rey station on September 16, 2013.**
- **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited Camp Miller on September 17, 2013.**

III. DISCUSSIONS

8. Discussion regarding the Audit Committee's direction to the Executive Office Staff, DCFS and Probation Department regarding SBC's collaborative work with DCFS and Probation Department. (13-4388)

Ms. N'nette Williams, Assistant Chief, Commission Services, distributed a handout to the Commissioners, as a follow up from the September 11, 2013 SBC meeting. She reported that staff met with both DCFS and Probation to gather input from DCFS and Probation on how work more collaboratively as directed by the audit committee. She also requested that Commissioners review and recommend additional items that they would like to be presented to the Audit Committee.

9. Discussions regarding making concrete recommendations to the Board of Supervisors based on the Commission's experiences, observations and findings during their inspections (Continued from the meeting of September 4, 2013).

Discussions regarding the possibility of inviting the Commissioners from the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection and the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Courts to attend one of SBC's regular meetings to share experiences and possibly make recommendations regarding the untimely release of youth from group homes to their families (Continued from the meeting of September 4, 2013). (13-4383)

These items were tabled for a future meeting.

10. Discussion and action on documenting SBC meeting attendance in the minutes. (13-4390)

Commissioner Donald Andrews motioned to list the Commission staff and other attendees present at the SBC meetings on the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Anne Hill the motion was unanimously carried.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

11. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-4384)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

12. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-4385)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

13. Adjournment for the meeting of September 18, 2013. (13-4386)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of September 18, 2013 at 12:28 p.m. in memory of the victims of the Washington DC Naval Base shooting.

DRAFT